

Message Text

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15

ACTION COA-02

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TAGS: EFIS KS US
SUBJ: FISHERIES: SHELLFISH SANITATION AGREEMENT

REF: SEOUL 1583

1. DAVID CLEM AND DAN HUMT, FDA OYSTER SANITATION EXPERTS JUST COMPLETING TWO WEEK TECHNICAL MISSIONIN KOREA, DISCUSSED WITH EMBOFF MSX PROBLEM WHICH IS PREVENTING EXPORT OF FRESH KOREAN OYSTERS TO US. ACCORDING TO FBA TEAM, PUSAN FISHERIES COLLEGE RESEARCHER DR. CHUNG HAS BEEN CONDUCTING TESTS ON KOREAN OYSTERS FOR MSX OVER THREE YEAR PEGIOD, AND HIS FINDINGS HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE. WHILE CLEM AND HUNT INSUFFICIENTLY EXPERT IN PARASITOLOGY TO VOUCH FOR CHUNG' S METHODOLOGY, IT APPEARS TO BE PROPER. THEY BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT BEFORE 12 MONTH SERIES OF LIVE OYSTER SAMPLES IS SHIPPED TO US AS REQUESTED BY NMFS' S OXFORD LAB, APPROPRIATE PRIOR STEP WOULD BE 3-4 WEEK VISIT TO KOREA OF NMFS PARASITOLOGIST TO REVIEW CHUNG' S WORK. IF IT IS GOOD HIS PAST AND FUTURE FINDINGS COULD BE USED INSTEAD OF LIVE SAMPLES. IF NOT, APPROPRIATE CORRECTIVE MEASURES, INCLUDING TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS, COULD BE UNDERTAKEN. CLEM AND HUNT WILL MAKE SUCH A RECOMMENDATION IN THEIR FORMAL REPORT UPON THEIR RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES HUNT AND CLEM' S SUGGESTION MERITS FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY USG AGENCIES INVOLVED. COST OF EXPERT' S VISIT COULD PERHAPS BE SHARED BY NMFS AND KOREAN OFFICE OF FISHERIES.
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